



Be the best that we can be.

EBJ Knowledge Organiser

Music

Year 6

Autumn

Songs of World War II



Curriculum Overview

In this unit, pupils develop their confidence and technical skills as singers by learning to follow both the melody and counter-melody lines with accuracy. They use musical and comparative language to describe what they hear and perform, building a deeper understanding of pitch, timing, and vocal control. Pupils learn to follow musical scores with increasing independence, showing that they can track changes in pitch and structure while singing the correct words at the correct time. As they progress, they practise recalling and performing a counter-melody, strengthening their listening skills and ensemble awareness. Throughout the unit, pupils refine their performance techniques and grow in confidence as expressive, musical singers.



Key Vocabulary

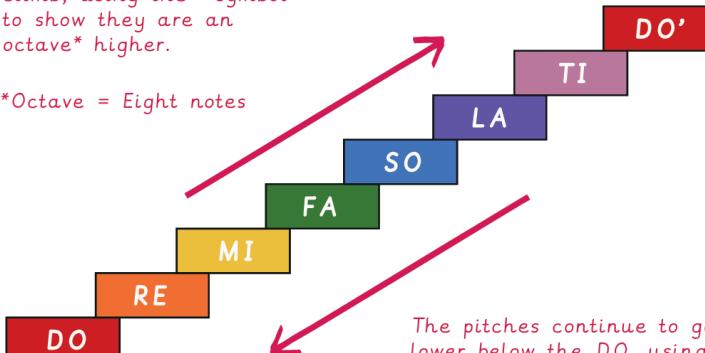
Expression	Playing or singing with a personal response to the music.
Dynamics	The volume of the notes. This often changes throughout a piece of music.
Diaphragm	A dome shaped muscle, which we use to control our breath when singing.
Melody	The combination of pitch and rhythm which forms a tune.
Melody line	The notes that make a melody.
Counter melody	A melody that can be sung to complement the existing melody. It uses harmony to make it sound good, but is different to harmony because it uses a different rhythm.
Pitch	How high or low a note sounds.
Score	A written form of a musical composition.
Graphic score	A way of writing down music on the page without using traditional stave notation, instead using symbols and images to represent the music.



Solfa Ladder Pitches

The pitches continue to climb, using the ' symbol to show they are an octave* higher.

*Octave = Eight notes



Purpose of Songs in World War II

The songs of WW2 were often very sentimental. They were seen to offer hope and understanding to the feelings of those who were affected by the war effort.



During World War II, songs played an important role in keeping people's spirits up. Music helped soldiers and civilians stay hopeful, feel connected, and cope with the fear and uncertainty of war. Many songs were written to encourage people, remind them to stay positive, or make them feel proud of their country.

Famous World War II Performers

- Vera Lynn:** Known as "The Forces' Sweetheart," she sang songs that brought comfort to soldiers far from home.
- Glenn Miller:** A famous American bandleader whose upbeat swing music boosted morale.
- The Andrews Sisters:** Known for lively harmonies and dance-style songs.

Musical Features You May Notice

- Strong melodies that are easy to remember and sing.
- Clear rhythms to help marching or dancing.
- Simple structures that made the songs easy for large groups to join in.
- Emotionally expressive singing, especially in songs about hope and reunion.

